IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A continuous casting method for continuously manufacturing ~~a~~ an aluminum or aluminum alloy metal cast member, comprising:

driving a casting wheel with a groove formed on an external peripheral surface thereof and an endless belt put on the casting wheel so as to close the groove in a direction of casting, wherein the casting wheel and the endless belt are differentiated in temperature therebetween by heating a portion of the endless belt, where molten metal starts to come into contact with the endless belt, to a temperature of ((melting point or liquidus-line temperature of the aluminum or aluminum alloy metal) x 0.35) or above before the endless belt starts to come into contact with the molten metal and cooling the casting wheel.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The continuous casting method as recited in claim 1, wherein a temperature of the endless belt is set to a temperature of ((melting point or liquidus temperature of the metal) x 0.5) or above.

Claims 4-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~A~~ An aluminum or aluminum alloy cast member continuously cast by the method as recited in claim 1, wherein a final solidification portion is located within a depth from a surface of the cast member, the depth being ((thickness of the cast member) x 0.2) or less.

Claim 10 (Original): The cast member as recited in claim 9, wherein a surface layer portion is removed from the cast member.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A metal worked article obtained by performing plastic working to the cast member as recited in claim 9.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A continuous casting apparatus, comprising:

a casting wheel with a groove formed on an external peripheral surface thereof and an endless belt put on the casting wheel so as to close the groove, the casting wheel and the endless belt being configured to be driven in a direction of casting;

a heating device disposed ahead of a position where the endless belt starts to come into contact with aluminum or aluminum alloy molten metal, the heating device being configured to heat a portion of the endless belt, where the molten alloy starts to come into contact with the endless belt, to a temperature of ((melting point or liquidus-line temperature of the aluminum or aluminum alloy metal) x 0.35) or above; and

a cooling device which is configured to cool the casting wheel.

Claim 13 (Canceled).